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more labels configured to control routing of the packet and [a] said payload.

4. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 1, wherein said [frame] payload comprises protocol-independent data.

7. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 1, comprising a packet identifier configured to store configuration information to identify [said] a data type of said payload, wherein said packet contains a specific protocol identifier, separate from a general protocol identifier, for [all] each of [the] a number of different [packets of] packet data types.

11. (AMENDED) The packet according to claim 1, [further comprising a] wherein said payload is configured to store data.

16. (AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes configured to transfer one or more packets, each <u>packet</u> comprising <u>a payload and</u> one or more labels configured to control switching of the one or more packets and [a] <u>said</u> payload, wherein each node is configured to transmit and/or receive said one or more packets in response to said one or more labels.